

July 17, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

Gentlemen:

We are writing in great opposition to ANY xeno-transplant research.

Responsible health authorities should ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, particularly because of the threats of inter-species virus transmission.

Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for xenotransplants, but there is NO evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig virus are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses.

The US should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999 the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants.

There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

Sincerely,

*Susan & Hubert van Asch van Wyck*  
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